

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14944 131603Z

44

ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 PA-01 ISO-00 /004 W

----- 054801

P R 131214Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 1832

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 14944

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: AIR ACTION OVER LEBANON DOMINATES PRESS TODAY, WITH TWO LEFTIST PAPERS EDITORIALY CRITICIZING U.S. FOR SUPPLYING ISRAEL'S ARMS. INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR CALLS FOR U.S. TOUR BY TEAM OF "RATIONAL" ARAB SPOKESMEN TO EXPLAIN PITFALLS OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. FOR SECOND DAY IN ROW A LEBANESE PAPER PRINTS EDITORIAL TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATOR FULBRIGHT, DEPICTING HIM AS LIVING PROOF THAT "RIGHTEOUSNESS IN AMERICA HAS NOT DIED COMPLETELY." END SUMMARY.

1. LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR URGED ARABS TO PRESSURE U.S. TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM ISRAELI POSITION ON MIDEAST CRISIS. PAPER WROTE: "AFTER THIRTEEN MONTHS OF WAITING FOR PEACE TO BE ACHIEVED IN AREA, STILL THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THIS PEACE WILL BE ACHIEVED. THIS IS PROBABLY BECAUSE WE CUT FOURTH ROUND SHORT AND PROBABLY BECAUSE MOVEMENT FROM MILITARY TO DIPLOMATIC FRONT WAS NOT ADEQUATELY CALCULATED...ARABS EXPECTED U.S. TO EXERCISE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, BUT INSTEAD THEY FOUND ISRAEL DOING THE PRESSURING... ARAB PUBLIC OPINION ASSUMES THAT MEANS OF PRESSURING U.S. ARE AVAILABLE TO ARABS BUT ARE NOT BEING

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 14944 131603Z

EXERCISED..BUT TO PREVENT MISINTERPRETATION OF A RESORT ONCE

AGAIN TO PRESSURES, IT SEEMS NECESSARY TO SEND TO THE U.S. A TEAM, CONSISTING OF RATIONAL POLITICAL THINKERS WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED ANTI-AMERICAN, TO EXPLAIN PITFALLS OF U.S. POLITICAL LINE."

2. PRO-LIBYA AS SAFIR BLAMED ISRAELI PANIC AND AMERICAN UNWILLINGNESS TO CONTROL ISRAEL FOR AIR ATTACK ON BEIRUT REFUGEE CAMPS. IT ALSO CENSURED LEBANON FOR NOT CONSOLIDATING ITS DEFENSES AND ARABS FOR NOT BACKING LEBANON. PAPER WROTE: "ISRAEL HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY, AND BEHIND IT AMERICA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACK. IT APPEARS TEL AVIV RULERS HAVE LOST THEIR NERVES COMPLETELY AS RESULT OF THEIR INTERNAL CRISIS AND IN VIEW OF THEIR FAILURE--CONTRARY TO WHAT THEY CLAIM DOMESTICALLY--TO STOP PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE WITHIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT ALSO SEEMS WASHINGTON RULERS ARE UNABLE, OR UNWILLING, EITHER TO MAKE TEL AVIV RULERS STOP THEIR AGGRESSIONS OR TO STOP ESCALATION U.S. MILITARY AID TO THOSE ISRAELI RULERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR NERVES."

3. PRO-SOVIET ASH SHAAB BLAMED U.S. FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH MODERN ARMS EVEN AT RISK OF WEAKENING U.S. DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. BY BACKING TEL AVIV TO THIS EXTENT, PAPER SAID, "U.S. UNDOUBTEDLY AIMS AT HUMILIATING, SUBDUING AND TERRORISING ARABS... THESE DEADLY WEAPONS WITH WHICH AMERICA IS SUPPLYING ITS MILITARY BASE IN ISRAEL ACTUALLY MEAN THAT WASHINGTON DOES NOT WANT PEACE FOR AREA, BUT ONLY WANTS ARAB SURRENDER."

4. IN SECOND EDITORIAL ASH SHAAB PRAISED RETIRING SENATOR WILLIAM FULBRIGHT FOR URGING U.S. TO RECOGNIZE PLO. (THURSDAY LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR FOLLOWED SAME THEME.) AS SHAAB SAID: "FULBRIGHT'S VOICE IS EVIDENCE THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS IN AMERICA HAS NOT DIED COMPLETELY. THERE ARE COALS STILL BURNING IN THE ASHES. THEY CARRY WITHIN THEM SEEDS OF RIGHT, JUSTICE AND FREEDOM. GOOD AMERICAN FULBRIGHT FACES AMERICA'S ZIONISTS WITH COURAGE OF HIS CONVICTIONS AND SPIRIT OF STRUGGLE. HE TOO IS A COMMANDO, ALTHOUGH HE CALLS FOR ISRAEL'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE SO LONG AS IT IS CONFINED TO ITS OWN BORDERS AND IS NOT ESTABLISHED ON OCCUPIED LANDS OF OTHERS."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 14944 131603Z

HOUGHTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT14944
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740362-0927
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741238/aaaabgjf.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 SEP 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS SUMMARY: AIR ACTION OVER LEBANON DOMINATES PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, US, LE
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005